

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 14, 2013

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Richard Reniere, Vice-Chairman
Philip Bean, Selectman Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Richard Desrosiers
Joe Grzybowski
Timothy Citizen Jones
Sunny Kravitz
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson
David Wood

Excused

Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative
Pat Collins

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Adoption of Minutes of November 5, 2013

At this time, Mr. Jones said he felt there was pertinent information missing in the Minutes under Old and New Business. However, he declined to specify what that information was. Chairman Latimer said she would look into it and would table the Minutes until the next meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Latimer welcomed Chief Jamie Sullivan and Deputy Chief Richard Sawyer of the Hampton Police Department.

Administration

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$467,312 for Administration.

Chief Sullivan said the increase in this area is for software.

Chairman Latimer asked if the Police vehicles are being serviced at DPW. Chief Sullivan said some of them were. It is too early to tell if this can bring the budget down.

Ms. Nickerson asked about Career Incentive. Chief Sullivan said this is based on the level of college degrees. Ms. Nickerson said uniform pay seems to be low. Chief Sullivan said by contract there is an amount for uniform allowance. Patrolmen and Sergeants receive a check. Ms. Nickerson asked if there was a salary increase for Patrolmen. Chief Sullivan said there was.

Chief Sullivan said they are still gathering specific data on what the cost of providing service to the summer population does to affect the budget.

Mr. Grzybowski asked about Tuition. Chief Sullivan said this is a stipend for continuing education.

Chief Sullivan said presently there are 34 full time officers. The department is authorized to have 70 part-time officers, but currently has 39.

Chairman Latimer asked if officers are lost to other towns because of pay. Deputy Chief Sawyer said the reason is because of the great training these officers receive in Hampton. They are part-time and receive offers for full-time employment.

Ms. Nickerson asked if there are still School Resource Officers. Chief Sullivan said they still have them and they are included in the count.

Chief Sullivan said the ideal would be to have six additional full-time officers. Ms. Nickerson urged the Committee to think seriously about this issue.

Mr. Grzybowski asked if there is reimbursement for private details. Chief Sullivan said they do receive reimbursement.

Chairman Latimer said the budget this year is going to be very difficult for voters to accept. The voters need to understand that every now and then it is necessary to spend a little more money in order to keep the community safe.

Mr. Reniere asked when the last time was that the staff was upgraded with more full-time officers. Chief Sullivan said it was long, long ago.

Mr. Reniere asked in the event the Budget Committee recommended the addition of one or two full-time officers, would they come from the part-time ranks. Chief Sullivan said they would. However, if there is a default budget, there could be problems. Chief Sullivan said he thought the proposed budget should be sold rather than adding anything to it.

Chairman Latimer noted that the Committee can only add to the bottom line and cannot add people. That is policy. If this budget goes to default, the Chief will be short-changed.

Ms. Nickerson asked what the starting salary is for a Patrolman. Chief Sullivan said they start at \$20/hour base pay and part-timers start at \$16/hour.

Chairman Latimer called for a vote on the main motion.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Crime Control & Investigation

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$421,273 for Crime Control & Investigation.

Mr. Reniere asked how many horses were in the Mounted Patrol. Chief Sullivan said there are two horses.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Traffic Control and Patrol

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$2,007,160 for Traffic Control and Patrol.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Training

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$24,893 for Training.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Support Services

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$791,313.

Chief Sullivan said the big change here is that they have started paying for the summer academy.

Mr. McFarlin asked if an officer who leaves after training has to pay back. Chief Sullivan said no.

Mr. Kravitz asked if the department receives the money from fines, etc. Chief Sullivan said they do not receive anything from speeding tickets, but do get some from Town ordinance violations.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Station & Building

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$182,009 for Police Station & Building.

Chairman Latimer asked about utility costs. Mr. Desrosiers said the police station is on a fixed supply rate for electricity and this will not change for two more years. However, the rate from Unutil will probably go up. On the gas side, there will be about a 10% increase.

Mr. LaBranche asked the Chief if he saw anything big on the horizon. Chief Sullivan said he did not

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Total Police Department

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,893,960.

Mr. McFarlin said this is a flat budget. The Town needs to realize just what these big departments will do to save money. Chief Sullivan said it is important to note the great people in his department and the work that they do.

Mr. Desrosiers thanked Deputy Chief Sawyer for all his help on the 375th Celebration.

Mr. LaBranche discussed the police enforcement on the beach. The State had said Hampton did not have authority to enforce State rules. There has been no final answer on this and the Memorandum of Understanding has not been signed.

Chief Sullivan said they have no authority on their property at the park. Hampton ordinances do not apply. This is in process right now.

Mr. Ladd said he was concerned about evacuation plans for the community. He said the Hampton Beach Village District would like to work with Police and Fire on this issue.

Ms. Nickerson said she would like to put in two more officers. Chief Sullivan expressed a concern about the default. Ms. Nickerson said she would not make a motion, but wants to hear what the public comment will be at the Public Hearing.

Mr. Jones said both the real budget and the default budget are under the control of the Selectmen. The Budget Committee is an oversight group. Chairman Latimer said the role of the Budget Committee is to make a budget. It is their job to go over every line to see if expenses are reasonable.

Chairman Latimer called for a vote on the main motion.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$94,878 for Animal Control.

Chief Sullivan said the biggest issue is the purchase of a new vehicle.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Latimer said she would request a copy of all expenses the Town has to cover the State.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Mr. Grzybowski said there was an event the previous night presenting awards to two firemen and the Fire Prevention Officer.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time the Fire Department budget will be addressed.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Kravitz, seconded by Mr. Grzybowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

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Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary